

want to thank Senator Bromm, thank Senator Pirsch, thank Senator Rasmussen and others who have spoken on this. I understand where Senator Moore's coming from. He wants to gain an advantage procedurally and I don't want to give him that advantage and maybe that isn't fair, but let me tell you why I oppose the Moore amendment. We have sat down and worked through and the committee's been meeting and we've talking to administration and we've tried to build into this a wide array of concerns that have been expressed since we've last had the bill. We've put them all together. We've packaged this in a way that I think makes a lot of sense to Nebraskans and you can go home to your districts and I think you can work through what we've just worked through and you can, I think, convince a lot of folks that this is a solution to the problem that will help go a long way toward dealing with the concerns that they have about Medicaid. We're talking about welfare reform, the need to deal with that problem, of people getting eligibility that people have questions about and that will be initiated with the Governor, who has already indicated a desire to look at that. We need to look at that problem. We need to come up with some solutions, some changes that will ultimately help with that. We talk about managed care here across the State of Nebraska. One of the things that came out is rural senators came in and said, boy, you know, this guy came in and he abused the system and this guy came. We've been talking a lot about urban areas is where a lot of problems exist in terms of abuse of the system, but this is a statewide problem and we need a statewide solution to it and managed care is the way to deal with that. Now it may be in different forms. It may not be the same in Omaha and Lincoln and every other town in the state. It may vary from state...areas of the state, but some how or another we need a gatekeeper function where somebody's out there before somebody gets services, before we do the pharmaceuticals, before we spend the money. We know we need to do it and that's what managed care is all about and that will, I think, again ease concerns that I heard from people about abuse in the system. We talk about trying to deal with other concerns that have been expressed in terms of the Legislature having some voice, some involvement in the process, not just having it in administrative function. That's taken care of by the delay system that we've put into the bill, and on, and on, and on. We have, I think here, a package of proposals that make a lot of sense, that deal with the concerns that we heard and I know Senator Day and Senator Vrtiska have a follow-up amendment that will also I think help with the problem. Now I've passed out for your some